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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

MIZUNO et al

Group Art Unit: 3677

Serial No. 10/529,558

Examiner: Jeffrey Andrew Sharp

Filed: June 17, 2005

Atty. Docket No.: 59511.00003

For: TAPPING SCREW

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 13, 2006

Sir:

The Office Action dated January 13, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

The Office Action of January 13, 2006 presented an election of species, requiring election between one of the following two species which were alleged to be disclosed in the application. The two species are:

Species I, illustrated in Figures 1-4, directed to the first embodiment of the invention; and

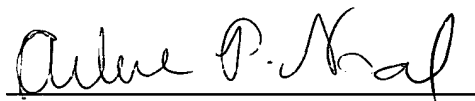
Species II, illustrated in Figures 5-9, and directed to the second embodiment of the invention.

Applicants respectfully elect to prosecute the subject matter of Species II, illustrated in Figures 5-9, recited in claims 1-8, drawn to the second embodiment of the invention. Applicants therefore respectfully request timely consideration on the merits.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application on the non-elected claims at any point prior to the termination of the proceedings in the subject application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Arlene P. Neal", written over a horizontal line.

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